



BELARUS

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
PLENARY MEETING**

New York
3 October 2006

**Agenda item 102 "Report of the Secretary-General
on the work of the Organization"**

**STATEMENT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
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The delegation of Belarus studied the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organisation with great attention.

The general debate at the current session has shown that the United Nations does not yet manage to realise its full potential - of peacebuilding, of constructive and organising influence. For the time being the UN cannot make a decisive impact on building the atmosphere of trust between states, prevention of military conflicts, fight against terrorism, fight against poverty.

The root of failures and the cause of the unrealised opportunities should be sought in a complex international situation determined by the **unipolar world order**. For as long this unipolar order - when the method of problem-solving is dictated by just one party - persists, progress will be unattainable.

Global challenges and threats can be overcome only if we act together making use of all the strength and resources we have. It is necessary to support the forming and encourage the creation of **new centres of consolidation and development** which could become a stronghold of stability regionally and globally and which are able to withstand the outside pressure. It is important to generate **new approaches** in dealing with the problems of security and development. These approaches should be based on **multipolarity** and acknowledgement of the **diversity of ways of progressive development** of countries and peoples.

We took with pain and regret the statements of many world leaders that the global partnership for development remained only on paper. We took it close to our heart because the Millennium Development Goals imply the fate of millions and billions of people, their lives, health and prosperity. Who else but the United Nations will care for them?

Advocacy of the principles of real partnership lies in the basis of the intention of Belarus to become a member of ECOSOC. We come to ECOSOC with a clear intention to direct the entire potential of the UN, its social and economic institutions to the **practical support of efforts of the governments of the most disadvantaged countries to implement their national development strategies**.

ECOSOC should become an international forum where the most important international decisions on the development assistance are taken. These approaches were reflected in our proposals on the reform of ECOSOC submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly in February.

On many occasions we stressed the necessity to improve the United Nations activities in the field of human rights. We oppose double standards and use of this topic for political pressure on sovereign states. We stand for an equitable dialogue aimed at the real protection of human rights.

Proceeding precisely from the necessity to practically promote human rights, Belarus has elaborated and is going to present to the General Assembly **a draft resolution on improving international cooperation in fighting human trafficking**. One fourth of the number of victims of human trafficking come from the region of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Time has come to take decisive coordinated actions to protect weak and vulnerable persons, especially women and children. It is also high time to say outright about the responsibility of the consumers of victims of trafficking. From our point of view, elaboration of a viable United Nations strategy on fighting trafficking should be the end result of the efforts in this field.

My country, the Republic of Belarus, is geographically located in a unique region which is going through a large-scale economic, political and social transformation. This region, the region of Eastern Europe, has been demonstrating the highest economic growth rates for several years already. Does it give the United Nations the right to exclude the **problems of the countries with economies in transition** from its agenda? The answer is evident if we address the gap between subregional levels of socio-economic development within the Eastern Europe.

Please see for yourself. There are 125 million people living below poverty line, including 25 million children. In many small and vulnerable countries with economies in transition there have been both a progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals and a painful backward movement, especially in education and health care. Eastern Europe and CIS fall behind Latin America and Asia in terms of results in achieving certain Millennium Development Goals.

We are therefore elaborating together with our partners and are going to present to the General Assembly a draft resolution on **integration of countries with economies in transition into the world economy**. The key objective of the draft resolution is to ensure a targeted international financial and technical assistance to the countries that really need it. We ask delegations to support this document.

Belarus, as one of the few countries that voluntarily renounced the possession of nuclear weapons, is deeply concerned by the lack of progress in ensuring the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty undoubtedly remains the foundation of the current system of international security. We proceed from the importance of the implementation of NPT in the unity of its three elements - disarmament, non-proliferation and rights for peaceful use of nuclear energy. We emphasise that limitation of inalienable right of all non-nuclear-weapon states for the peaceful use of nuclear energy is the direct way to undermining the Treaty.

The absence of the results of the activity of disarmament fora in recent years is a direct consequence of the increased confrontation in the modern world and of the tendency for finding solutions for the arising problems from the position of strength.

The progress in the field of disarmament is necessary. It is important not only to preserve the existing UN disarmament machinery but also to make it function properly.

We are pleased to draw your attention to the positive example - establishment of a new Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia. Four Central-Asian states are our partners within the regional organisation - Collective Security Treaty Organisation. Belarus in its capacity of the chair of CSTO circulated the statement of support for this initiative.

Belarus attaches great importance not only to the implementation of the international treaties banning or imposing control measures on existing types of weapons of mass destruction, but also to the adoption of measures to prevent the development of new types of such weapons. Belarus is the author of the relevant General Assembly resolution. The fact that this resolution was not adopted by consensus during the 60th session of the General Assembly is an alarming. Let me ask those who did not support this resolution: are you really going to create new types of weapons of mass destruction?

Certainly, the significant event was an adoption by the General Assembly by consensus of the United Nations Global Strategy and Plan of Action against Terrorism. We welcome this important event as for the first time in the history of the United Nations all 192 Member States have agreed on common principles and approaches in combating terrorism on a global level.

We find it natural when the permanent members of the Security Council have different opinions on the ways of resolving international crises. As a result, more often than not the most balanced and wise decision is made. At the same time we would like to note that a more coordinated action of the Security Council Member-States and promptness in decision-making could contribute to the more effective response to the modern threats and challenges and to make the life of people in hotspots of the world a little safer.

The United Nations reform is not proceeding smoothly. On the one hand, new important bodies were created at the last session. Although their efficiency is yet to be assessed. On the other hand, revitalisation of the General Assembly is going slowly and does not spread to some important spheres. Yet we are confident that a step-by-step and balanced approach which takes into account the interests of all Member-States is much better and more viable than an intention to create a system of management which suits only narrow circle of influential states.

We should remember: the goal of the reform is neither the cost-cutting nor even the improvement of management. The reform is being carried out in order that every human on the planet would feel the care of the international community and believe in his or her own better future.